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CLASSIFICATION

24 May 1950

PUNCHED

TO: Chief, Madrid Station

FROM: Chief, Foreign Division W

DATE:

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Request for Information

SUBJECT: SPECIFIC - General Andreas ZAKO, Hungarian Emigre Leader

1. Information has been received that the former Hungarian General Staff Officer, General Andreas (Andrew) ZAKO, was in Spain during April/May 1950. He is reported to have received a cordial welcome and it has also been reported that many of his associates will follow him to Spain.

2. Following is a brief background on ZAKO and his League of Hungarian Combatants, MHEK (Magyar Harcosok Bajtarsai Községe):

a) Andreas ZAKO was born 23 March 1893 in Brasso, Rumania, formerly Brasov, Hungary. He was on the Hungarian General Staff from 1938 until 1944 when he became Commander of the 27th Light Division of the First Hungarian Army, defending the Carpathians against the Red Army. In October 1944 he was made Chief of Hungarian Military Intelligence and in that capacity organized the Hungarian anti-Soviet stay-behind network "KOPJAS". He was in American custody in 1945. After that he settled in the French Zone of Austria and became active in the reorganization of the "KOPJAS" group.

b) ZAKO and the MHEK (formerly KOPJAS) have been very active in Hungarian emigre affairs. ZAKO claims to have a network running into Hungary. He has had very close connections with the French and his group has and is supported by them. It is also reported that he has connections with the Italian IS and the BIS.

c) ZAKO and his aides have consistently sought American support through various of the MHEK members in Germany, Austria, Italy and even in the United States. Our policy to date has been to stay clear of the MHEK.

d) The other Hungarian emigre groups in Western Europe and the United States are not favorably inclined toward the MHEK because of the Arrow-Cross, pro-Nazi sympathies of its members. Since most of the members of the MHEK were Hungarian officers in good standing with the Hungarian Government during the war, they are predominantly extreme right-wing or Arrow-Cross men. For that reason such groups as the Social-Democrats and Small Holders are violently opposed to them. However,

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the MHEK has reportedly carried on more intelligence activity against the present Hungarian regime than the other groups. This is due to the make-up of the MHEK, i.e. former Hungarian intelligence officers and the remnants of the "KOPJAS" group.

3. It is suggested by the interested desk that Ferenc MAROSY might provide information on ZAKO's visit to Spain. Although it would not be advisable to reveal our knowledge of ZAKO and his activities, MAROSY might be encouraged to discuss Hungarian emigre groups in general and perhaps he would bring up ZAKO in the course of the discussion. Please send a copy of any report on this subject to Vienna.

cc: Vienna

REO:jm

Based on a draft by []

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